

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

JULY 26, 2007

A regular meeting of the Commission for Human Rights was held in the agency conference room on Thursday, July 26, 2007. Present at the meeting were Dr. John B. Susa, Chair, Nancy Kolman Ventrone, Alton W. Wiley, Jr. and Rochelle Bates Lee. Absent were Alberto Aponte Cardona, Iraida Williams and Camille Vella-Wilkinson. The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

A motion was made to approve the June 28, 2007 minutes. The motion was made by Commissioner Wiley, seconded by Commissioner Kolman Ventrone and carried.

Status Report: Michael D. Évora, Executive Director-

A written report was handed out. All new information was in bold print.

Case Production Report – Attached –

Commissioner Kolman-Ventrone made a motion to give Angela Lovegrove a letter of commendation for her work on housing cases. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wiley, Jr. and carried.

AGED CASE Report - Attached

Outreach Report - Attached

STATUS REPORT - COMMISSIONERS-

GENERAL STATUS: No Report

OUTREACH: Commissioner Susa reported that he was invited to the Liberian Independence Celebration. Commissioner Lee reported that she attended a press conference for the Minority Legislative Caucus. Commissioner Lee also met with members of the Providence Human Relations Commission and PERA (Providence External Review Authority) to discuss issues.

Commissioner Meeting -2- July 26, 2007

STATUS REPORT - LEGAL COUNSEL, Michael Evora and Francis A.

Gaschen

LITIGATION: report attached.

LEGISLATION: discussed

REGULATIONS: No discussion at this time.

HEARING SCHEDULE: Discussed

DECISIONS: No discussion at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Thursday, September 27, 2007 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Michael D. Évora
Executive Director**

Notes taken by: B. Ross

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
REPORT TO COMMISSIONERS**

JULY 26, 2007

I. BUDGET

S = State/General Revenue; F = Federal (EEOC/HUD)

	FY 2007	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2008
	(Rev. Req.)	(Revised)	(Request)	(Recomm.)
S	1,038,846	989,630	936,493	984,197
F	286,549	323,679	311,111	404,743
T	1,325,395	1,313,309	1,247,604	1,388,940*

***The Commission's original FY 2008 Budget Request contained a 15% cost reduction, as required by the Governor, which would have resulted in the loss of 2.5 positions, leaving the Commission at 12 positions. The budget request before the General Assembly funds the Commission for the full 14.5 positions to which the agency currently is entitled.**

In May, the Governor submitted his recommended amendments to the FY 2008 Appropriations Plan to the General Assembly. We are unaffected by the amendments and remain fully funded at 14.5 FTEs. The General Assembly passed the Commission's budget intact over the Governor's veto.

II. FEDERAL CONTRACTS

EEOC – For federal FY 2007, as of 6/30/07, according to EEOC Project Director Marlene Toribio, we have closed 187 co-filed cases. Our FY 2007 contract with EEOC is for 259 cases; we must close 72 more co-filed cases by September 30 to meet the contract. Each case is now payable at \$550.00. Depending upon the number of July closures, we may have to request a downward modification of our contract; we have until July 31 to assess and decide.

HUD – For FY 07, according to HUD Project Director Angela Lovegrove, we took in 43 new housing charges, 39 of which were co-filed with HUD. Within this same time period, we processed 45 housing charges, 42 of which were co-filed with HUD.

For FY 08, we have taken in seven new housing charges, all of which are co-filed with HUD. Within this same time period, we have processed one housing charge, one of which was co-filed with HUD.

III. PERSONNEL

No activity to report.

IV. OUTREACH – Refer to attached report.

V. GENERAL STATUS

●Meetings with staff members – I continue to meet with

individual investigative staff members on a monthly basis to monitor case production.

●Case Closures – Refer to attached report.

●Aged Cases – Refer to attached report. Progress continues to be made on decreasing the aged caseload. The Commission successfully reduced the aged caseload by 86% in FY 2006 (from 14 to 2 cases).

●Overall Case Inventory – The Commission had over 1000 cases in its inventory at the end of FY 98. We ended FY 07 with approx. 350 cases in inventory. As of 7/11/07, we had a total of 362 cases in inventory.

●Commission-Initiated Charge – On June 29, I filed a charge on behalf of the Commission against an employment agency. The charge alleges discrimination on the bases of disability, race, color and ancestral origin.

Respectfully submitted,

**Michael D. Évora
Executive Director**

Attachments